Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AGR-05 /086 W 030745

R 021522Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 677

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONGEN GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: UNUSED BANANA LANDS

REF: SAN JOSE 2601

1. ON JUNE 30 THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, BY UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF THE 41 DEPUTIES VOTING, AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE TO ISSUE UP TO 200 MILLION COLONES (SOME \$23 MILLION) WORTH OF GOVERNMENT BONDS TO BE USED IN PAYING FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF UNUTILIZED LANDS OWNED BY UNITED BRANDS. INTEREST PAYMENTS ON THE BONDS WOULD BE FUNDED FROM THE APPROPRIATION OF THE LAND AND COLONIZATION INSTITUTE (ITCO). LEGISLATION CALLING FOR ACTUAL EXPROPRIATION OF THE LANDS IS STILL BEING DEBATED IN THE ASSEMBLY. THIS LEGISLATION IS TIED AS A RIDER TO A BILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAISING THE TAX ON SOFTDRINKS, CIGARETTES AND BEER. THE

FULL BILL HAS BEEN REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE AND MAY COME UP FOR FIRST READING WITHIN A WEEK.

2. UNITED BRANDS REPRESENTATIVES HERE HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH INDIVIDUAL DEPUTIES IN AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THEIR PLANS FOR PUTTING THESE UNUTILIZED LANDS INTO PRODUCTION (SEE REFTEL FOR DESCRIPTION OF THIS PLAN). A UNITED SPOKESMAN TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVES MOST OF THE DEPUTIES HAVEN'T THOUGHT OUT THIS ISSUE AND MANY ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AMOUNT OF LAND WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED IS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN WOULD BE THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THIS SPOKESMAN, SINCE 1931 UNTIL THE PRESENT, UNITED HAS EITHER SOLD OR GIVEN AWAY 78 PERCENT OF ALL THE LAND IT HOLDS IN COSTA RICA. UNITED DOES NOT SEEM TO BE AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF AN EXPROPRIATION OF ITS LAND AS IT IS ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF EXPROPRIATION ITSELF, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE APPARENTLY DISCRIMINATORY AND ARBITRARY NATURE OF THIS PROPOSAL. **TODMAN**

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: LAND NATIONALIZATION, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, AGRICULTURAL LAND, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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Subject: UNUSED BANANA LANDS TAGS: ETRD, CS, UNITED BRANDS To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006